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826 7590 02/02/2010

ALSTON & BIRD LLP
BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA
101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000
CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000

EXAMINER

VETTER, DANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/807,679

03/24/2004

Nagesh Kadaba

018360/268388

4421

TITLE OF INVENTION: COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR ROUTING PACKAGE DELIVERIES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	05/03/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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826 7590 02/02/2010

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(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/807,679 03/24/2004 Nagesh Kadaba 018360/268388 4421

TITLE OF INVENTION: COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR ROUTING PACKAGE DELIVERIES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 05/03/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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VETTER, DANIEL 3628 705-338000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,679	03/24/2004	Nagesh Kadaba	018360/268388	4421
826	7590	02/02/2010	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			VETTER, DANIEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3628	
DATE MAILED: 02/02/2010				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 921 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 921 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/807,679	KADABA, NAGESH	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DANIEL VETTER	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to reply filed October 22, 2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 33-46,48-54,59 and 60.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Lightner on January 26, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 13 as follows:

Using the software logic, the shipper computer system 20 is configured to prompt and record entry of the PLD shipping information by the shipper 11, such as through the presentation of a graphical-user interface with fields for entry of the PLD information. To facilitate accurate recording of package weights, the computer system 20 may include a scale 26. In addition to the scale ~~[[28]]~~26, the shipper's computer system 20 may also include a label printing device 27 or other type of printer. Once the PLD information has been entered or recorded, the logic of the computer system 20 is configured to use the database of zip codes to match the package zip code with a classification of the package's destination address, which in the illustrated embodiment of Figure 1 includes the rural or urban classification. In addition to classifying the destination address, the shipper computer system 20 may also have logic and data for determining the destination delivery unit 17 of the second carrier, which corresponds to the recipient's address, if necessary.

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 6 of page 14 as follows:

Alternatively, for the rural packages (or packages in areas where delivery is not cost-effective for the first carrier due to a lack of facilities, roads, etc.) the shipper may be offered a combined carrier delivery level of service. If the shipper selects this option, the shipper system 20 generates a combination label 25 as shown in Figure 3. In one embodiment, the combination label 25 includes a second carrier address field 28 that indicates the destination delivery unit 17 to which the first carrier is to deliver the package, as shown in Figure 3. Above the second carrier address field 28 is a return address field ~~[[44]]~~ of the shipper 11 and a package weight field ~~[[45]]~~, which in the illustrated label 25 of Figure 3 is 3 pounds.

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 28 as follows:

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Yet another quality control step ~~[[27]]~~270 is conducted at the operating center 15 by the first carrier. Periodic size and weight checks are conducted at the operating center either manually 271, or automatically 272, or both. The automated facilities are configured to audit packages on a daily basis. An amount of revenue that should be associated with the package size and weight determined by the audit is calculated 273, such as by the first carrier billing system 225. The difference in the initial calculation is compared to the audit calculation and billing adjustments are made 274 and applied to the final invoice or bill 275 before it is communicated to the shipper 11 for remuneration.

Claims:

33. (Currently Amended) A computer system for routing delivery of a package by a plurality of carriers each having one of a plurality of physical delivery systems, said computer system comprising:

a shipper computer system configured to:

request a delivery, of a package by a plurality of carriers each having one of a plurality of physical delivery systems;

determine whether ~~the~~a consignee address matches a rural destination classification or an urban destination classification;

generate a first carrier label including a consignee address field in response to the consignee address matching the urban destination classification; and

generate a combination label including a subsequent carrier address field in response to the consignee address matching the rural destination classification;~~and~~

an initial carrier computer system connected in electronic communication with the carrier physical delivery system of an initial one of the carriers and the shipper computer system,

said initial carrier computer system configured to:

obtain package information data from the shipper computer system, said package information data including the consignee address;

determine whether the consignee address matches the rural destination classification or the urban destination classification;

instruct the initial carrier physical delivery system to deliver the package to the consignee address included on the first carrier label in response to the consignee address matching the urban destination classification; and

determine, based at least in part on the combination label, an intermediate location at which a subsequent one of the carriers is configured to receive the package in response to the consignee address matching the rural destination classification; and

a subsequent carrier computer system connected in communication with the initial carrier computer system and a subsequent one of the carrier physical delivery systems,

said subsequent carrier computer system configured to:

obtain the package information data, including the consignee address, and the intermediate location from the initial carrier computer system;

receive instructions from the initial carrier computer system to receive the package at the intermediate location and complete delivery to the consignee address; and

send the package information data, including the consignee address, and the intermediate location to the subsequent carrier physical delivery system and instructing the subsequent carrier delivery system to obtain the package at the intermediate location and complete delivery of the package to the consignee address.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 33, wherein the package information data includes an initial carrier tracking number and wherein the initial carrier computer system is configured to communicate with a scanning device of the initial carrier physical delivery system to receive tracking data indicating detection of the initial carrier tracking number at the intermediate location by the scanning device, said initial carrier computer system also configured to electronically notify the subsequent carrier tracking system of arrival of the package at the intermediate location.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 34, wherein the package information data also includes a subsequent carrier tracking number that is

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different than the initial carrier tracking number and wherein the subsequent carrier computer system is configured to communicate with a scanning device of the subsequent carrier physical delivery system to receive tracking data indicating detection of the subsequent carrier tracking number at the consignee location, said subsequent carrier computer system configured to notify the first carrier computer system of detection of the subsequent carrier tracking number at the consignee address.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 35, wherein the initial carrier computer system is further configured to combine the package information data with the tracking data indicating detection of the package at the intermediate location into an electronic billing manifest using the initial carrier tracking number and wherein the initial carrier computer system is configured to bill the subsequent carrier by transmitting the electronic billing manifest to the subsequent carrier computer system.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 36, wherein the initial carrier computer system is also configured to combine the tracking data indicating detection of the package at the consignee address with the package information data in the billing manifest using the subsequent carrier tracking number.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 37, wherein the subsequent carrier computer system is configured to display the billing manifest for audit.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 37, wherein the subsequent carrier computer system is configured to compare the package information data with the tracking data indicating detection of the package at the consignee address to confirm delivery of the package on the electronic billing manifest.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 39, wherein the initial carrier computer system is configured to obtain from the shipper computer system a compilation of package information data on a plurality of packages and is further configured to periodically compare the package information data to the compilation of package information data to confirm receipt of the package information data from the shipper computer system.

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41. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 40, wherein the initial carrier computer system is configured to electronically transmit at least one of the package information data, the tracking data and the electronic billing manifest to the shipper computer system or a consignee computer system.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 37, wherein the initial carrier computer system is further configured to generate cost of shipment data, including costs associated with delivery of the package by one or more participating carriers, generating an electronic invoice including the cost of shipment data and transmitting the electronic invoice to the shipper computer.

43. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 42, wherein the cost of shipment data includes a cost of delivery to the intermediate location by the initial carrier and a cost of delivery to the consignee location by the subsequent carrier.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 43, wherein the initial carrier computer system is configured to: control receipt of funds from the shipper computer system for payment of the invoice; debit an amount of the funds for shipment services provided by the initial carrier; and deposit a remaining amount of the funds in an escrow account.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The computer system of Claim 44, wherein the subsequent carrier computer system is electronically connected to the escrow account and is configured to withdraw funds from the escrow account for shipping services provided by the subsequent carrier and is also configured to compare the amount of the funds debited by the initial carrier to the electronic billing manifest.

46. (Currently Amended) A method of routing delivery of a package by a plurality of carriers each having one of a plurality of physical delivery systems, said method of routing comprising steps of:

using a shipper computer system to execute the steps of:

determining whether ~~the~~a consignee address matches a rural destination classification or an urban destination classification;

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generating a first carrier label including a consignee address field in response to the consignee address matching the urban destination classification; and

generating a combination label including a subsequent carrier address field in response to the consignee address matching the rural destination classification;

using an initial carrier computer system that is connected in communication with the shipper computer system to execute the steps of:

obtaining package information data, including the consignee address, from a shipper;

determining whether the consignee address matches the rural destination classification or the urban destination classification;

instructing the initial carrier physical delivery system to deliver the package to the consignee address included on the first carrier label in response to the consignee address matching the urban destination classification; and

determining, based at least in part on the combination label, an intermediate location at which a subsequent one of the carriers is configured to receive the package in response to the consignee address matching the rural destination classification; and

using a subsequent carrier computer system that is connected in communication with the initial carrier computer system to execute the steps of:

obtaining the package information data, including the consignee address, and the intermediate location from the initial carrier computer system;

receiving instructions from the initial carrier computer system to receive the package at the intermediate location and complete delivery to the consignee address; and

sending the package information data, including the consignee address, and the intermediate location to the subsequent carrier physical delivery system and instructing the subsequent carrier delivery system to obtain the package at the intermediate location and complete delivery of the package to the consignee address.

48. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method of routing delivery of Claim 46, wherein the initial carrier computer system is further adapted for obtaining an initial carrier tracking number and obtaining tracking data indicating detection of the initial carrier

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tracking number at the intermediate location in response to the use of a scanning device of the initial carrier physical delivery system.

49. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method of routing delivery of Claim 48, wherein the subsequent carrier computer system is further adapted for notifying the subsequent carrier tracking system of detection of the initial carrier tracking number at the intermediate location.

50. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method of routing delivery of Claim 48, wherein the initial carrier computer system is further adapted for constructing a billing manifest by correlating, using the initial carrier tracking number, the package information data with the tracking data indicating detection of the initial carrier tracking number at the intermediate location.

51. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method of routing delivery of Claim 50, wherein the subsequent carrier computer system is further adapted for obtaining a subsequent carrier tracking number that is different than the initial carrier tracking number and obtaining tracking data indicating detection of the subsequent carrier tracking number at the consignee address in response to the use of a scanning device of the subsequent carrier physical delivery system.

52. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method of routing delivery of Claim 51, wherein the subsequent carrier computer system adapted for constructing the billing manifest includes the subsequent carrier computer system being further adapted for correlating, using the subsequent carrier tracking number, the package information with the tracking data indicating detection of the subsequent carrier tracking number at the consignee address.

53. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The method of routing delivery of Claim 50, wherein the subsequent carrier computer system is further adapted for comparing the electronic billing manifest with the tracking data indicating detection of the subsequent carrier tracking number at the consignee address to confirm delivery of the package on the electronic billing manifest.

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54. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for routing delivery of a package, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-readable program code portions comprising:

a first executable portion for obtaining package information data, including a consignee address, from a shipper computer system;

a second executable portion for determining whether the consignee address matches a rural destination classification or an urban destination classification;

a third executable portion for instructing an initial carrier physical delivery system to deliver one of the packages to the consignee address included on a first carrier label in response to the consignee address matching the urban destination classification, wherein the first carrier label was previously generated in response to the consignee address matching the urban destination classification;

a fourth executable portion for determining, based at least in part on a subsequent carrier address field included on a combination label, an intermediate location at which a subsequent one of the carriers is configured to receive the package in response to the consignee address matching the rural destination classification, wherein the combination label was previously generated in response to the consignee address matching the rural destination classification;

a fifth executable portion for sending the package information data and the intermediate location to the subsequent carrier physical delivery system and instructing a subsequent carrier physical delivery system to obtain the package at the intermediate location and complete delivery of the package to the consignee address;

a sixth executable portion for obtaining an initial carrier tracking number as part of the package information data and obtaining tracking data indicating detection of the initial carrier tracking number at the intermediate location using a scanning device of the initial carrier physical delivery system;

a seventh executable code portion for constructing a billing manifest by correlating, using the initial carrier tracking number, the package information data with

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the tracking data indicating detection of the initial carrier tracking number at the intermediate location; and

an eighth executable code portion for obtaining a subsequent carrier tracking number that is different than the initial carrier tracking number, as part of the package information data and obtaining tracking data indicating detection of the subsequent carrier tracking number at the consignee address using a scanning device of a subsequent carrier physical delivery system.

59. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer program product of Claim 54, wherein the seventh executable code portion is further for correlating, using the subsequent carrier tracking number, the package information data with the tracking data indicating detection of the subsequent carrier tracking number at the consignee address.

60. (Currently Amended) [[A]]The computer program product of Claim 59, further comprising a ninth executable code portion for comparing the electronic billing manifest with the tracking data indicating detection of the subsequent carrier tracking number at the consignee address to confirm delivery of the package on the electronic billing manifest.

2. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1-32 and 61-71 directed to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 1-32 and 61-71 have been cancelled. See MPEP § 821.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art (including the closest prior art reference Morimoto, which discloses movement and tracking of a package through multiple carriers), does not teach or suggest generating different a first carrier label or a combination label based upon whether the consignee address matches an urban or rural destination classification, and further does not teach or suggest instructing delivery to an urban or rural destination consignee address based at least in part on the first carrier or combination label.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Amling, et al., U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0149373 (Reference A of the attached PTO-892) teaches a consolidated application integrating multiple freight tracking systems. Richardson, *Small Shipments Reach Further with Technology*, TRANSPORTATION & DISTRIBUTION, vol. 31 no. 4, pg. 14 (Dialog copy) (Reference U of the attached PTO-892) teaches parcel consolidation and pooling at carrier drop points among multiple carriers. Cohen, et al., *The Cost of Universal Service in the U.S. and its Impact on Competition*, OFFICE OF RATES, ANALYSIS AND PLANNING, U.S. POSTAL RATE COMMISSION, Nov. 17, 2002 (Reference V of the attached PTO-892) discusses rural and urban postal carriers.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL VETTER whose telephone number is (571)270-1366. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/DPV/

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